(iv) Upgradation of passengers will be done as under:—

- Sleeper to 3AC or First Class
- 3 AC to 2 AC
- 2 AC to 1 AC

(v) Upgradation will not be done for block booking transactions.

(vi) Upgradation will be done only to the extent of clearance of the combined waiting list of all classes. If there is no waiting list, no upgradation will take place.

(vii) If a passenger, who has been upgraded, cancels his ticket, cancellation charges of the original class only will be payable.

(c) and (d) It is expected to result in increased earnings as the wait listed passengers who earlier used to get the tickets cancelled due to non-availability of confirmed accommodation, may now get confirmed accommodation on account of upgradation. The exact amount of revenue, which the Railways may earn on account of this, however, cannot be estimated.

Pit lines at Madurai

1322. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up three pit lines at Madurai railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Madurai has two pit lines of 18 coach and 26 coach capacity respectively. Two new pit lines of 600 metre (26 coach) length each have been sanctioned as part of Maduari-Rameshwaram gauge conversion project with augmentation of existing sickline capacity.

Projects of South Central Railways

1323. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the Railway Projects sacntioned for South Central Railway during the last two years;

(b) the funds allocated and utilized by each Project;

(c) the projects still incomplete despite having sufficient funds; and

(d) the specific reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Raichur-Guntakal doubling project has been sanctioned in 2003-04 at a cost of Rs. 136.62 crore.

(b) Rs. 19 crore has been provided for this project during 2005-06. An expenditure of about Rs. 1.47 crore has been incurred on this project till date and actual expenditure incurred would be known after finalisation of accounts for the year.

(c) and (d) The project has been identified for execution by Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL). Final Location Survey has been completed. Tenders are under process and land acquisition has been taken up.

Vacancies in Group D in safety category and RPF

1324. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 2000 vacancies in Group D in safety category and 3500 vacancies in RPF are laying vacant for long; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to acute shortage of staff, Station Masters are forced to perform commercial duties like sale of tickets, booking of parcels/goods, attending public queries, etc. causing lapses in train operations and compromising with safety of trains/operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. There exist more than 20,000 vacancies in Group 'D' category in safety categories about 1375 vacanies in Railway Protection Force.

(b) Station Masters do perform commercial duties at stations where separate staff is not justified due to less workload as the posting of commercial staff at the stations depends on the number of tickets sold at the station. Performance of commercial duty has always been part of the duty list of Station Masters.